York, Philadelphia, and in other cities farther south, artists that have been reared and taught in Boston and vicinity, who are there receiving that remunerative reward for their labours which they failed to obtain nearer home. But a new cause of depression has just been promulgated; one, it must be confessed, which deprives the depressor of full as much pleasure as it does the artist,—the withdrawal of southern patronage and encouragement from our Art-Unions, because of their location! That this may work temporarily to the disadvantage of our artists, we do not doubt; but that it can be permanent, we do not believe. A "sober second thought" never comes amiss. But, in the present state of art among us, what ought the community to do, to maintain its reputation for refined taste and judicious liberality? We simply say, as lovers of the fine arts, and desirous of the good name of our city,—encourage our own! Boston has more artistic talent than any other city in the United States. Let that talent, then, we say, be encouraged; and let the encouragement come promptly. It is not right that the artists of our city should either be at "starvation point," or receive a penurious support. For the credit of Boston, we hope our wealthy men will extend a fostering hand to the arts.—*Boston Atlas.*

Tunnel at Buffalo.—About the greatest object of interest in the vicinity of our city just now, says the Buffalo *Courier*, is the tunnel of the water works company in the rock under the Erie canal and the black rock harbour to the Niagara river, about half-a-mile beyond the city line. The perpendicular shaft or well is abont 8 feet in diameter and 30 feet deep, nearly the whole being through rock. From the bottom of the well, starts the tunnel, which is nearly circular, and about 6½ feet in diameter, running nearly horisontally towards the bed of the river, which is distant about 360 feet. A slight slope upward as the tunnel advances, allows the water which pours into it from springs or crevices in the rock, to run back into the well out of the way of the workmen who are engaged incessantly, day and night, in blasting the rock. They have now proceeded about 280 feet from the well, progressing at about 2 feet per day. Only four miners are able to work at once, changing three times during the twenty-four hours. The work is all done by lamp light. The rock is soft and easily drilled. At the mouth of the well the noise of the blasts is like the discharge of heavy artillery. The water is removed by two large pumps driven by a steam-engine, also used to lift the broken stone from the pit.

Music Hall at Boston.—Designs for a contemplated music hall in Bumpstead-place have been exhibited at the Merchants' Exchange. The work is now fairly commenced, and 30,000 dollars of the stock taken. The charter will be forthwith granted by the Legislature, and we see no reason, says the Boston *Transcript*, why the work of building cannot be commenced within a month. It is hoped, however, that the gentlemen taking the lead in this enterprise will consider the feasibility of constructing the hall in such a manner that it can be used, not only for concerts, but for the production of operas.

HORN HOUSES OF LASSA, THE CAPITAL OF THIBET.—There is a certain district in the suburbs where the houses are built entirely with the horns of cattle and sheep. These odd edifices are of extreme solidity, and present a rather agreeable appearance to the eye; the horns of the cattle being smooth and white, and those of the sheep being black and rough. These strange materials admit a wonderful diversity of combinations, and form on the walls an infinite variety of designs. The interstices between the horns are filled with mortar. These are the only houses that are not white-washed. The Thibetians have the good taste to leave them in their natural state, without endeavouring to add to their wild and fantastic beauty. It is superfluous to remark, that the inhabitants of Lassa consume a fair share of beef and mutton: their horn houses are an incontestible proof of it.—*Cape Colonist.*

FALL OF A BUILDING, GRACECHURCH-STREET, LONDON.

ON Saturday, the 17th, the greater part of a new building of very large size, on the west side of Gracechurch-street, and extending into Bell's-court, Leadenhall-street, which was just ready to receive the roof, fell to the ground in a shapeless mass, and buried in the ruins a number of the workmen. The building was being erected by Messrs. Bell and Corbett, architects, and was to have been of fire-proof construction. Further particulars will be gathered from the following evidence, given at the inquest held on the bodies of the men who were unfortunately killed:—

Mr. R. Bell said,—I am an architect. The building which has fallen belonged to myself and Mr. Corbett, who is in partnership with me. I should describe the building as being situate on the west side of Gracechurch-street, between Nos. 16 and 18. The premises were originally the Cross Keys Hotel and Tavern, and some shops in the front, the whole of which have been pulled down, and in lieu of these we were about to construct merchants' offices, which were to be upon the fire-proof principle, called Fox and Barrett's Patent. The building was proceeding in perfect safety when I was over the premises on Friday night about half-past six o'clock. Then all was perfectly safe, and we had got nearly the whole of the concrete on the roof, ready for the asphalte covering which was to have been laid upon it. As far as I could judge there was nothing wrong at that time. I did not see the building again till next morning, from half-past 10 till 11, just after the accident, when I found at the centre of the building that the south wall of the staircase had gone down, and drawn with it the floors and the external walls next the church. I did not see anything at the time to account for this. I have inspected the place, and can, I think, account for the cause as it was told me. What I feel assured must have been the case was, that the iron girder crossing the staircase from north to south, and having another girder crossing from east to west, resting upon it at one end, broke and gave way. That was quite at the top of the building. There was nothing upon it. The weight brought down and broke every bearer successively, and the iron rafters prised out the courses of brickwork throughout. I think the weight of the girder must have been about 35 cwt., or approaching 2 tons. There were other girders, each about the same weight, in the respective stories. These were supplied by Mr. Ford, who was recommended by the patentees, Messrs. Fox and Barrett. I have visited the building every day since its commencement. I did not examine the top girder. I do not know why I did not, though Mr. Corbett attended to the iron work; yet it was equally my duty to attend to it. The contractor was to have it proved before delivery. I tried many of the smaller girders by putting weights upon them. I put about nine times as much upon them as they had to bear. I did not try that which is broken, because there is no room for that purpose on the premises. Part of the north wall is standing. The girder was upon the north and south walls. I have since examined the girder, and I find a flaw in it at the bottom part. The girder is 12 inches deep. There are three flanges, one at the bottom seven inches wide. The contractor was to have proved the girder. I ordered the girder to be an inch and a quarter in thickness.

The Coroner.—I understand it is more than an inch and a half thick.

Witness.—It may be. I calculated it to bear thirty-five tons with the weight equally distributed all over it. With six tons in the centre it ought not to have given more than 1-100th part of its own length. If the thickness had been 1¼ inch it would have broken with thirty-six tons. I never test with more than one-third it ought to carry. If to bear thirty-six tons, I would test it with twelve tons in the centre. Such a flaw as is in the girder would not be perceptible after being painted, as this was, but it could generally be discovered by striking it with a hammer. I believe a great part of the accident arose from endeavours to have the building extra strong, such as tying the floors to the walls, and the walls together. We purchased our materials from Mr. Reddin, which were of the best kind. The contractor for the whole work was Dennett. He was to do the whole of the brick work, and fix the iron work. He was, in fact, the contractor for the building, excepting providing the materials. The mortar was formed of good lime and sand, and there was more cement used in the building than I have ever known, excepting one at the Temple, which is built entirely with cement. The cement sets quicker, and I think is harder; but I prefer mortar if there is plenty of time for it to get hard. The superintendent of the building is King. I examined the cement and know it was properly made, as was also the mortar.

Coroner.—It has been said that there was no mortar adhering to the bricks.

Witness.—All walls which are thrown down, whether held together with cement or mortar, generally fall down clean, and that, I should say, accounts for the appearance of the bricks. A large piece of brickwork cemented together, weighing 2 or 3 cwts., had been thrown from a height of 36 feet without breaking. I am sure the fall, from what I saw, has not arisen from any defect in the workmanship. Before commencing such a building as this, it is usual to give notice to the district surveyor, and to show him the drawings of what we are going to do. I do not know whether it is the custom of the district surveyor to visit buildings during their progress, but I have seen him there two or three times while erecting our building.

Coroner.—Do I understand that any one can carry up a building without the district surveyor coming to inspect it?

Witness.—We are not generally accustomed to the superintendence of the district surveyor. I have seldom seen district surveyors, except in matters of lights and party-walls. I am satisfied the accident was from a flaw in the girder, and not from defective brickwork. There was no weight upon it, but some scaffold-boards. The wall varied in thickness, but was generally more than a brick and a half; in some instances two bricks. Some parts of the walls were only nine inches thick, that part was a partition wall. I should describe the building as an extra first-rate.

A Juror.—The fact is, in the whole length the wall is only 9 inches thick?

Witness.—Not so; there is as much 18 inches as 9 inches. No district or other surveyor said the building was not strong. I do not see how he could. There was not an atom of concrete bearing on that part of the building which fell. Every girder should have been proved. A tier of girders, each weighing about 35 cwt., rested on the 9-inch wall. There were tyers to the work, which stiffened the whole, and each floor was thus like a fresh building. I thought the wall strong enough to carry a greater weight than that iron. I am satisfied that the concrete in the building was set sufficiently to enable us to work. I think the wall was sufficient to carry any weight which could be put upon it perpendicularly. There would not be a great vibration in throwing the concrete on to the iron. The concrete would set in a few days, and become hard in a week. The weight of concrete averaged about 5 cwt. on each joist.

Michael O'Connor said,—I live at Bankside, and am a labourer. I have been there at work about a month. I was there when the accident happened. I was on the highest part of the highest ladder, close to the iron girder which gave way. The ladder at the bottom part rested on the middle floor. I saw the iron girder on the top floor snap right in half. It was thrown down when it snapped. I think it was in the middle that it rose up. I saw the two parts rise out of the wall. All went down, and I was carried down with it. I do not know whether any weight was upon it. I think ballast was all round it and over it. I think some of the joists were laid upon it.

Mr. Bell recalled.—There were no joists resting on that girder, because all was left open for the sky-light. The witness has made a mistake.

Mr. William Parsons, solicitor.—About six weeks ago I went over the building; I went to inspect the fire-proof floors; I saw the superintendent, who pointed out the principle. I explained to him that an iron girder towards the south side was very insufficient to carry the weight. The girder I saw was over the building on the ground-floor.

James Montague, district surveyor.—I have been on the building several times during the progress of the work. I was there on Monday morning; I can give no information as to the probable cause of the accident; I was only told about the iron girder; I do not recollect in my examination noticing any defect in the thickness of the walls; they were brought up in quite sufficient thickness according to the Act of Parliament. Mr. Bell has had large experience, therefore I did not go so often; I trusted to him. The wall carrying the girders is an internal wall, and I think could, though being only 9 inches thick, be quite sufficient to carry all the girders, weighing each 35 cwt., and all the concrete. I did, when there, notice the cement and the mortar; I saw nothing amiss. The bricks were many of them old, but good; and were, so far, as good as new. If I had been building a house for myself, I should not have been afraid to trust these walls. But there is a good plan of making that called strong enough, a little stronger: and I might therefore have been disposed to have made the wall a brick and a half thick.

John Dennett, the contractor for the building, said he had always doubts as to the girders, but

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